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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
CREATE A WORKING GROUP TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ON  
MANAGING THE COMMERCIAL TAKING OF AQUARIUM FISH.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is known for its beautiful reef  
2 environment; and  
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4 WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that Hawaii's marine  
5 resources are proactively managed to protect our reef and fish  
6 populations in the future; and  
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8 WHEREAS, it is important to preserve the long-term  
9 sustainability of aquatic life and to manage Hawaii's commercial  
10 fisheries at sustainable levels; and  
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12 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Land and Natural  
13 Resources's Report on the Findings and Recommendations of  
14 Effectiveness of the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management  
15 Area, continued expansion of the aquarium fish collecting  
16 industry would not be sustainable; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the report recommended measures that should be  
19 taken, such as a limited entry aquarium fish permit program, to  
20 curtail possible unsustainable expansion of commercial aquarium  
21 fish taking in the future; now, therefore,  
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
24 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
25 Session of 2015, that the Department of Land and Natural  
26 Resources is requested to establish a working group to provide  
27 recommendations on managing the commercial taking of aquarium  
28 fish; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
31 to:  
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- (1) Make recommendations for the establishment of a limited entry permit program for the commercial taking of aquarium fish;
- (2) Make recommendations for the development of administrative rules to be adopted that establish bag limits for the commercial taking of aquarium fish;
- (3) Determine the feasibility of issuing separate permits for commercial fishing and the commercial taking of aquarium fish;
- (4) Determine an appropriate fee structure for a commercial taking of aquarium fish permit;
- (5) Identify potential enforcement issues related to administrative rules regulating the taking of aquarium fish;
- (6) Explore measures to maintain current sustainability levels and limit expansion of overfishing; and
- (7) Examine any other pertinent issues related to the commercial taking of aquarium fish; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following persons are requested to participate in the working group:

- (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, who is requested to serve as the chairperson of the working group;
- (2) A marine biologist from the Aquatic Resources Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, to be appointed by the chairperson of the working group;
- (3) A representative from the conservation marine resources industry, to be invited by the chairperson of the working group;
- (4) A fishing permit holder in West Hawaii, to be invited by the chairperson of the working group;



1 (5) A fishing permit holder in Oahu, to be invited by the  
2 chairperson of the working group;  
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4 (6) A representative from the National Oceanic and  
5 Atmospheric Administration, to be invited by the  
6 President of the Senate; and  
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8 (7) A representative from the West Hawaii Fisheries  
9 Council, to be invited by the Speaker of the House of  
10 Representatives; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
13 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
14 including any proposed legislation, to this body no later than  
15 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
16 2016; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
19 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, the  
20 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Chairperson of  
21 the Board of Land and Natural Resources who, in turn, is  
22 requested to widely distribute the Resolution to the other  
23 entities mentioned therein and to other interested persons.

